

REMARKS

Original claims 13, 15, and 17 have been cancelled, and the subject matter of those original claims has been added to amended claims 12, 14, and 18, respectively, for greater clarity and particularity.

Claim 18 has been further amended, to point out with more particularity and clarity the subject matter regarded by the Applicants as their invention. Claim 18, which previously read in part, "determining the percentage **and** the intensity of immunostaining of immunoreactive cells" [emphasis added], has now been amended to read, "determining the percentage **and/or** the intensity of immunostaining of immunoreactive cells" [emphasis added]. Support for that amendment can be found in part in original claim 17, which comprised "determining the percentage of immunoreactive cells", and in full in the specification at the least at page 6, lines 28-31, which reads: "More preferably, said MN/CA9 gene expression product detecting step (a) is by immunohistochemical staining, and said quantitating step (b) comprises determining the percentage of immunoreactive cells and/or the intensity of immunostaining of immunoreactive cells,".

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 12, 14 and 18 are supported throughout the application and by the original claims.

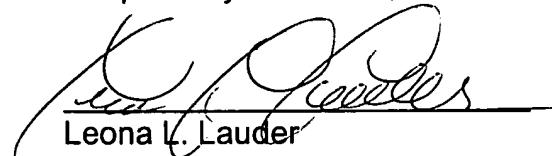
Applicants respectfully conclude that no new matter has been entered by any of the above amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented in this Preliminary Amendment are in condition for allowance, and earnestly request their

prompt allowance. If the undersigned Attorney for the Applicants can be of any assistance in regard to the prosecution of this application, she can be reached at (415) 981-2034.

Respectfully submitted,



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